

REMARKS

Claims 12-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-11 are canceled via the forgoing amendments.

CLAIM OBJECTION:

The objection to claims 3, 8 and 11 is deemed moot in view of these claims being canceled.

35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fujimori (JP 2001-10088).

The rejection of claims 1-5, 7 and 9-11 is deemed moot in view of these claims being canceled. Applicant takes this opportunity to explain why Fujimori does not disclose the features of new claims 12-20.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that the Examiner previously asserted that “the spacing is equal to the dot diameter,” in regard to claim 1, but then asserted that “the spacing between certain dots in the sub-pattern is 0,” in regard to claim 11. The Examiner appears to be changing his interpretation of “the spacing” between claims 1 and 11.

If “a spacing” is interpreted in view of the Examiner’s interpretation of claim 1, previous claim 11 would not be anticipated by Fujimori because Fujimori does not disclose that “a spacing in a scanning direction between dots that make up said correction pattern printed by ejecting ink droplets of said certain size from said ejection head is equal to a spacing in the

scanning direction between dots that make up said correction pattern printed by ejecting ink droplets of said different size from said ejection head.”

On the other hand, if “a spacing” is interpreted in view of the Examiner’s interpretation of previous claim 11, claim 1 would not be anticipated by Fujimori because Fujimori does not disclose “a spacing in a sub-scanning direction between dots that make up said correction pattern printed by ejecting droplets of a certain size from said ejection head is different from a spacing in the sub-scanning direction between dots that make up said correction pattern printed by ejecting ink droplets of a different size from said ejection head.”

Turning to new claims 12-20, recited is “a distance between the centers of neighboring dots.” In particular, claims 12 and 17-20 recite that “a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said first direction of said first correction pattern and a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said first direction of said second correction pattern are a predetermined distance.”

Further, claims 12 and 17-20 recite “a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said second direction of said first correction pattern is different from a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said second direction of said second correction pattern.”

Fujimori discloses that the dots created in the forward pass and the dots created in the backward pass are arranged in a checkered pattern, and that the respective dots are expected to be substantially in contact with their adjoining dots, as shown in Fig. 15 and described in section 0122. Though the checkered patterns shown in Fig. 15 are made, respectively, with different

sized dots, Fujimori does not disclose that “a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said first direction of said first correction pattern and a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said first direction of said second correction pattern are a predetermined distance”.

Even if, *arguendo*, Fujimori discloses that a spacing between certain dots is 0, it does not disclose the features of claims 12 and 17-20 including that “a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said first direction of said first correction pattern and a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said first direction of said second correction pattern are a predetermined distance,” in view of claims 12 and 17-20 describing “a distance between the centers of neighboring dots”.

Moreover, even if, *arguendo*, Fujimori is interpreted as disclosing “a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said first direction of said first correction pattern and a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said first direction of said second correction pattern are a predetermined distance,” Fujimori does not disclose that “a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said second direction of said first correction pattern is different from a distance between the centers of neighboring dots arranged along said second direction of said second correction pattern,” in view of claims 12 and 17-20 describing “a distance between the centers of neighboring dots.”

Accordingly, independent claims 12 and 17-20 are not anticipated by the applied art. Dependent claims 13-16 are also not anticipated by the art at least due to them respectively depending on claim 12.

35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimori in view of Nishigori (JP 10-329381). The rejection of claims 6 and 8 is deemed moot in view of these claims being canceled.

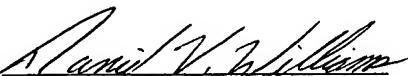
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No.: 10/780,859

Attorney Docket No.: Q79906

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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